

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 27, 2003

LB 283

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 2039.)
20 ayes, 16 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was not successful; has not been adopted. I do raise the call. Mr. Clerk, next item to the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM2086. (Legislative Journal pages 2039-2040.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on AM2086 to LB 283.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, there are two amendments filed, this one and the next one, and I want to talk about them together because they go together, one or the other. They're alternatives. And I know after all the heavy lifting we've done this session it's hard to listen to another serious debate, but there is one more topic now that we have not discussed that I think is very important and that I think you will want to discuss to some extent, and these amendments afford you that opportunity. And that topic is the subject of the federal funds that have now definitely come to the state of Nebraska, and I passed out a sheet to you that shows that it's about \$108 million and, of that, approximately \$50 million will be an increase in the federal share of Medicaid, which means we won't have to spend as much in General Funds on that subject, and then the other \$58 million is a general block grant for general government use. So this money came down from the federal government. It came down for the purpose of stimulating the economy. That is the thought at the federal level, the macroeconomics. The thinking of I think most economists is that interest rates are low, business is willing to invest, great circumstances for investment, but the public is spooky. Demand is not heavy. What we need to do is to reassure the public to get some spending going and that will cause investment on the business side and we will then get back on our wheels. At the federal level, for a long time there has been general exception...acceptance of the idea that in hard economic times you use government policy to influence the economy; that is, you try to pump money into the economy when the private sector is having a problem and then, when the private sector is